

SOWERBY BRIDGE

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Urban District Council

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# Annual REPORT

of the



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(N. E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.)

and the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(Wm. E. FOSTER, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.P.H.I.A.)

for the Year

1958



SOWERBY BRIDGE  
Urban District Council

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URBAN DISTRICT OF SOWERBY BRIDGE

1958-59

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor MISS E. JUDSON, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Councillor A. BUTTERWORTH

Members of the Council:

Coun. Mrs. E. Bagshaw

" G.A. Benbow, J.P.

" E.R. Berry

" J.C. Bower

" K. Burke

" J. Clegg

" W. Crossfield, J.P.

" E. English

" W. Greenwood, J.P.

" C. Grenshaw

" H. Wilcock

Coun. H. Haigh

" A. Leech

" E. Lumb, J.P.

" C.W. Maude, J.P.

" W.L. Parker

" E. Rowe

" N. Sutcliffe

" W. Tate

" W.F. Turner

" C. Uttley

" Miss L. Wilson

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Members of the Health Committee:

Coun. G.A. Benbow, J.P. (Chairman)

" A. Butterworth (Vice-Chairman)

" E.R. Berry

" J.C. Bower

" K. Burke

" W. Greenwood, J.P.

" E. Rowe

" W.F. Turner

" Miss L. Wilson

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Sowerby Bridge U.D.C.

Medical Officer of Health:

NORMAN E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

GLADYS V. BRADSHAW, M.B., B.S., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

W.E. FOSTER, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.P.H.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

J. GOULDEN, M.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A.

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West Riding County Council

Preventive Medical Services: Health Division 19

Staff with duties in the Sowerby Bridge District:-

Divisional Medical Officer:

As above (M.O.H.)

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer:

+ GLADYS V. BRADSHAW, M.B., B.S., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

Assistant County Medical Officer, and Medical Officer to Sowerby Bridge  
Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics:

+ D.S. PICKUP, L.M.S.S.A., M.B., B.S.

Health Visitors:

E.B. NOWERS, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.S.C.N.

+ M.O. FORRESTER, S.R.N., S.C.M.

M. SOUTHWELL, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Tuberculosis Health Visitor:

+ B.G. NICHOLL, S.R.N.

Mental Health Social Worker:

+ E.C. WROE, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.M.N., H.V.

Mental Health Home Teacher (Qualified):

+ Mrs. M.H. GRAHAM, B.A.

Midwives:

+ D. SANDERSON, S.R.N., C.M.B., Queen's Nurse (retired 30.9.58)  
+ M. HOLDEN, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Relief Midwife for whole Divisional Area)  
M. BAMFORTH, S.R.N., S.C.M. (commenced 1.11.58)  
+ P. WRIGHT, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.F.N. (commenced 1.11.58)

Home Nurses:

A. KLEINDIENST, S.R.N., R.F.N., Queen's Nurse  
+ A.M. SCHOLICK, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse  
A. HOWARTH, S.R.N., S.C.M.  
+ K. BOTTOMLEY, S.R.N.  
+ E.S. SIDDALL, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse (Relief Home Nurse for whole Divisional Area)

+ Also have duties in other parts of this Division.

Clerical Staff:-

Senior Divisional Clerk:

H. MARSHALL, A.C.I.S.

Deputy Senior Divisional Clerk:

Miss J. SUTCLIFFE

Clerks:

Miss P. JACKSON  
Mrs. M. REDFERN  
Mrs. J.E. SUTCLIFFE  
Miss B. MARSHALL  
Miss M.J. CROWTHER  
T. WALTON  
R. WILD  
Miss C. SHANN

Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee

Consultant Staff

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon:

W.O. LODGE, M.D., F.I.C.S., F.R.C.S. (Edin.)

Chest Physician:

BERTRAM MANN, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

Orthopaedic Surgeon:

G. HYMAN, M.B., F.R.C.S.

Ophthalmic Surgeon:

S. ROBERTSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S.

Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre,  
Todmorden.

December, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Twelfth Annual Report since the inception of the scheme of Divisional Health Administration.

Under the Divisional Health Scheme your Medical Officer of Health is also Divisional Medical Officer for the West Riding County Council's local health services and has similar functions in the Borough of Todmorden, the Urban Districts of Ripponden and Hebden Royd and the Rural District of Hepton. The scheme has led to a closer integration of local authority health services.

In 1958 the birth rate was maintained at a level which is relatively high when compared with surrounding districts, and for the sixth successive year the birth rate was in excess of the death rate. The infant mortality rate, however, at 47.0 was the highest for many years and was in marked contrast to the good record of the urban district in respect of infant deaths. The increase was due to a series of unrelated events, the commonest cause of death being immaturity.

The incidence of poliomyelitis in 1958 was generally low but this divisional area, unfortunately, was involved in a local outbreak. The number of cases notified, 11, has only twice been exceeded, in the epidemic years of 1947 and 1949. Three cases occurred in the Sowerby Bridge district. The majority of the cases were notified in the summer months and at that time almost exactly half the children under the age of 15 years in this area had received two injections of polio vaccine. Only one mild case occurred in these children, while ten unprotected children contracted the disease, some being afflicted with extensive paralysis. Most of the cases were under the age of 7 years and one cannot emphasise too strongly the importance of having all young children vaccinated against poliomyelitis.

Good progress has been maintained in the poliomyelitis vaccination campaign, and late in the year the age groups eligible for protection were extended to include young adults and a third injection was made available. At the end of the year, some 5,469 persons in the Divisional Area had received two injections and an additional 1,056 had received three, a total of over 14,000 injections given to 6,525 persons. The position with regard to children is now very satisfactory, but the response from young adults in the community is still disappointing.

Although the number of deaths from tuberculosis recorded annually continues to fall, this disease is still a considerable problem in Sowerby Bridge and a further 14 cases were notified in 1958. Every known contact of a person on the tuberculosis register is offered an examination by the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit when it comes to the district, at present in alternate years. The unit also makes sessions available to industry, to the general public and to patients referred by their own doctors. A further important class to be X-rayed consists of the personnel of the Education Department, and this year one case was found in a school, fortunately before any of the children had been infected.

The year 1958 was marked by the Council making clearance orders in respect of 43 houses, the first to be dealt with since before the war. Clearance at this modest rate, if it can be continued, will do no more than keep pace with the number of substandard houses falling into a state of disrepair and is unlikely to affect the general conditions in the town for very many years. In Sowerby Bridge there are 2,276 back-to-back houses and 171 single back houses, many in congested areas and in such a condition that improvements are out of the question. Joint toilet accommodation is a universal defect of this type of property with often as many as three families sharing each toilet. The extent of this feature can be judged from the fact that there are only 5,099 toilets, 4,628 of them W.C.s available to serve all the shops and factories in addition to 6,747 dwellinghouses in Sowerby Bridge. It is fortunate that much of the property being considered for clearance is underoccupied, providing accommodation in the main for elderly persons.

The Housing Committee cannot be accused of being complacent about the situation. Several schemes have been carefully considered and the experience of other authorities has been studied, but the re-development of clearance areas has been deferred because it is felt that present building costs and interest rates would result in rents far beyond the reach of the average wage earner in local industry. The greatest housing need in the district is for further accommodation for old people and it is to be hoped that one site may be developed for this purpose, with provision for a warden, in the near future.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the Council for their consideration, patience and co-operation, and to thank Mr. Foster, Public Health Inspector, for his kindness and efforts to give me the sanitary circumstances of the area, and indeed to all your officials with whom I made contacts, personal and official.

I am, yours faithfully,

N.E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

# SECTION I

## Vital Statistics

### STATISTICS

Area (Census 1951)	.. .. .	5,763 acres
Population, Registrar-General's estimate of		
Resident Population, mid-1958	.. .. .	18,140
Population (Census 1951)	.. .. .	18,770
Number of dwelling-houses	.. .. .	6,747
Rateable Value (1.4.58)	.. .. .	£126,769
Product of a Penny Rate (year 1958-9)	.. .. .	£487

### Summary of Vital Statistics

	Total	M	F	
Live Births	298	152	146	Birth Rate per 1,000 population: 16.4
Still Births	5	2	3	
Total Live & Still Births	303	154	149	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births: 16.5
Deaths of Infants				Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births:
Under 1 year (total)	14	7	7	total 47.0
Under 1 year (legitimate)	14	7	7	legitimate 47.0
Under 1 year (illegitimate)	-	-	-	illegitimate -
Under 4 weeks	10	5	5	Neo-natal mortality rate 33.6
Illegitimate Live Births	16	9	7	Percentage of total live births: 5.37
Maternal Deaths (associated with pregnancy or child-birth)	-	-	-	Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births: -
All Deaths	270	142	128	Death Rate per 1,000 population: 14.9

# CAUSES OF DEATH IN SOWERBY BRIDGE U.D.

								1957		1958	
								M	F	M	F
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal Infections	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-	1
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-	-
8.	Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	6	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	-	2	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	6	-	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	5	-	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	8	12	16
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	-	-
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	2	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	29	16	26
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	20	37	24
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	3
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	28	15	20
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	4	3
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	5	4	6
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	-	7	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	3	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	1	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1	1	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	2	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-	3	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	2	1	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	5	15	8
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	3	2
34.	All other accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	2	1	3
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	3	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-	-
								114	133	142	128

## Principal Vital Statistics for the year 1958

Based on Registrar General's Figures

	Sowerby Bridge U.D.	Rippon- den U.D.	Hebden Royd U.D.	Hepton R.D.	Todmor- den M.B.	Aggregate W. Riding U.D.	W. Riding Admin. County	England and Wales (Provisional Figures)
BIRTH RATE:- (per 1,000 estimated population) .. .. .	16.4	11.1	11.7	12.3	13.8	16.3	16.7	16.4
DEATH RATES:- (All per 1,000 estimated home population)								
All Causes .. .. .	14.9	14.5	17.1	12.5	13.6	12.8	11.9	11.7
Infective and parasitic diseases + .. .. .	0.06	-	-	-	-	0.04	0.05	+
Tuberculosis of respiratory system .. .. .	0.06	-	0.10	-	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.09
Other forms of tuberculosis .. .. .	-	-	-	-	-	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cancer .. .. .	2.32	1.59	2.37	1.50	2.6	2.11	1.97	2.12
Vascular lesions of nervous system .. .. .	2.32	2.39	2.89	2.51	2.71	2.13	1.93	+
Heart and circulatory diseases / .. .. .	6.01	7.16	8.67	5.76	5.20	5.00	4.59	+
Respiratory Diseases:- // (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	1.32	1.99	0.62	1.25	1.27	1.40	1.33	+
INFANT MORTALITY:- (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	47.0	-	17.7	-	8.0	23.2	24.4	22.5
MATERNAL MORTALITY:- (Deaths of mothers associated with pregnancy or childbirth per 1,000 live and still-births)	-	-	-	-	-	0.41	0.43	0.43

+ Combined death rate from syphilitic diseases, diphtheria, whooping cough, meningococcal infections, acute poliomyelitis, measles and other infective and parasitic diseases (items 3 - 9 incl. on page 8).

/ Combined death rate from heart disease and other diseases of the circulatory system (items 18 - 21 incl. on page 8).

// Combined death rate from influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases, excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system (items 22 - 25 incl. on page 8).

## SECTION II

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### (A) Hospitals

There is no hospital in Sowerby Bridge. Patients requiring hospital treatment are referred as a rule to hospitals under the administration of the Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee (National Health Service). Included in this group are the Halifax General Hospital, Royal Halifax Infirmary, St. John's Hospital (for the aged and chronic sick), Northowram Hall Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Todmorden Fielden Hospital (for long stay medical cases in children) and Todmorden Stansfield View Hospital (for mental defectives).

Maternity beds are only available at the Halifax General Hospital. Priority in booking is given to abnormal cases, mothers expecting their first child, and mothers with unsatisfactory home conditions.

Special hospitals (e.g. Mental Hospitals, special Orthopaedic Hospitals, Tuberculosis Sanatoria, etc.) outside the Halifax area are available when required; they are situated in various parts of the so-called "Leeds Hospitals Region" which in fact extends into all three Ridings.

#### (B) Ambulance Service

The County Ambulance Service (Divisional Depot at Brighouse - telephone Brighouse 840) covers this district. Arrangements also exist with the Halifax County Borough Health Department for the use of their ambulances for the transfer of patients to and from the hospitals in Halifax.

#### (C) Laboratory Facilities

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Services (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at laboratories in Wakefield and Bradford, and by the Regional Blood Transfusion Service at Leeds.

#### (D) Issue of Anti-Toxin, etc.

Supplies of diphtheria and tetanus anti-toxin are available at the Northowram Hall Hospital and the Royal Halifax Infirmary for issue to medical practitioners requiring them. By arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board supplies of tetanus anti-toxin are also kept at the Divisional Health Office, The Medical Centre, Todmorden, for the use of local medical practitioners in the Division.

A supply of re-agents for diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation is also available free of charge to private practitioners who have undertaken to participate in the West Riding County Council's schemes of immunisation. Poliomyelitis vaccine is also issued, as available, in accordance with the approved arrangements.

### SECTION III

#### W.R.C.C. PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

##### (A) Clinics and Treatment Centres

###### Infant Welfare:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	Thursdays	)	
The Institute, Luddenden Foot	Fridays	)	
		)	
		)	2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
<u>Ante-Natal and Post-Natal:</u>		)	
		)	
Allan House, Sowerby Bridge	Mondays	)	
The Institute, Luddenden Foot	2nd & 4th	)	
	Fridays in	)	10 a.m. to 12 noon
	month	)	

###### School Clinics:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge			
(a) Minor Ailments	Mondays		10 a.m. to 12 noon
(b) Ophthalmic	As required	)	
(c) Ear, Nose and Throat	As required	)	
(d) Artificial Sunlight	Tuesdays	)	by appointment
	Fridays	)	

###### Smallpox Vaccination:

###### Diphtheria Immunisation:

###### Whooping-Cough Immunisation:

###### Poliomyelitis Vaccination:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge  
The Institute, Luddenden Foot  
At any Minor Ailments or Welfare Clinic, by arrangement with Medical Officer.

## (B) Care of Mothers and Young Children

### Sowerby Bridge and Luddenden Foot Ante-Natal Clinics:

Number of expectant mothers attending during the year	..	..	..	..	127
Total number of attendances	..	..	..	..	588

### Child Welfare Clinics:

Total number of children who attended during the year	..	..	..	..	537
Total number of attendances	..	..	..	..	3,679

### Home Visiting of Infants:

Total number of live births to Sowerby Bridge mothers	..	..	..	..	298
Number of first visits to children under 1 year	..	..	..	..	303
Total number of visits to children under 1 year	..	..	..	..	1,380
Total number of visits to children aged 1-2 years	..	..	..	..	751
Total number of visits to children aged 2-5 years	..	..	..	..	1,180

### Provision of Welfare Foods, etc.:

National dried milk, cod liver oil, orange juice, etc., are distributed at the Centres, and a variety of brands of dried milk and other infant foods are also sold at the Child Welfare Centres for the convenience of mothers.

### Care of Premature Infants:

Special equipment and nursing staff is available for use in the home in cases requiring them.

### Provision of Maternity Outfits:

These are provided free to mothers preparing for confinement in their own homes.

## (C) Professional Nursing in the Home

The County Council are responsible for the home nursing and midwifery services in Sowerby Bridge. There were four full-time Home Nurses and three full-time Midwives employed in 1958. Two of the Home Nurses and two Midwives, however, did not work wholly in the Sowerby Bridge area, also having duties in other parts of the Divisional Area.

### Midwifery Service:

Number of home confinements	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	106
Number of hospital confinements	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	192

The Sowerby Bridge midwives are trained in the administration of gas and air analgesia and are provided with the necessary equipment. Analgesia is available to all mothers desiring it subject to satisfactory medical examination by a doctor.

(D) Health Visiting

The duties of the Health Visitor are combined with those of School Nurse. In pursuance of the National Health Service Act the scope of this service includes home visiting for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of children, and persons (including adults) suffering from illness, and of expectant and nursing mothers. The Health Visitor also give advice in the home as to measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

(E) Home Helps

The recruitment of suitable women to be Home Helps again proved to be difficult. During 1958, 81 cases were attended by Home Helps as compared with 72 cases the previous year, and the total number of hours worked was 9,444.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, the County Council provides domestic help for households "where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age."

Of the 81 cases attended in 1958, Home Helps were provided for the following reasons:-  
6 maternity and 75 chronic sick.

(F) Care and After Care

Special provisions are in operation for the care and after care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or defect, venereal disease, and other illnesses.

(G) School Health Service

Number of schools in district	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Number of children in attendance at school at end of 1958	..	..						2,970
Number of children examined at school during 1958	..	..	..	..				1,356
this figure being made up as follows:-								
Routine examinations	..	..	..	..	..			1,119
Re-examinations	..	..	..	..	..			237
Number of children referred for treatment	..	..	..	..	..			59

(H) Immunisation and Vaccination

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, immunisation against diphtheria and whooping-cough and vaccination against smallpox may be done either at the clinic or by the family doctor.

### Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of children in Sowerby Bridge who had completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation, 1958

Age	0-1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Began and completed Injections 1958	104	29	5	4	4	1	6	8	1	2	1	1	-	-	-
Total 166															

Immunised in previous years re-treated 1958	-	-	-	-	2	15	16	23	24	26	38	16	-	-	-
Total 160															

### (ii) Immunisation in relation to child population

Number of children in Sowerby Bridge who had completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation at any time to 31.12.58

Age at 31.12.58 i.e. born in year	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total under 15
No. immunised	5	147	147	157	189	1,116	1,171	2,932

### Whooping-cough Immunisation

Number of children in Sowerby Bridge who completed a full course of Whooping-cough Immunisation, 1958

Age at final injection	Under 6 months	6 months to 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	Total
No. immunised	9	86	23	2	2	122

(ii) Immunisation in relation to child population

Number of children at 31st December, 1958, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date.

Age 31.12.58 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1958	1 1957	2 1956	3 1955	4 1954	5 - 9 1949-53	10 - 14 1944-48	Total
No. immunised	5	147	140	117	114	241	6	770

During the year there were 3 notified cases of whooping-cough. None of the children concerned had completed the full course of immunisation.

Vaccination against Smallpox, 1958

139 people were vaccinated against smallpox during the year, 105 of whom were children under the age of one year. Many of the children were vaccinated at the Child Welfare Centres at Sowerby Bridge and Luddenden Foot.

SECTION IV

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Summary of Notifications received in year 1958

Disease	Total cases notified									
Scarlet fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Whooping-cough .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Measles .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	136
Diphtheria .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Dysentery .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Meningococcal infection .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Acute pneumonia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Smallpox .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Acute encephalitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Enteric or typhoid fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Paratyphoid fevers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Erysipelas .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Food poisoning .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Puerperal pyrexia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Pulmonary tuberculosis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Other forms of tuberculosis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
										<hr/> 175 <hr/>

# Tuberculosis

The following table gives at a glance the position regarding tuberculosis in Sowerby Bridge in 1958

	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Totals
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
No. on Register on 1st Jan. 1958 ..	64	52	116	17	10	27	143
No. first notified during 1958 ..	6	7	13	-	1	1	14
No. of cases restored to register ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No. of cases added to register other than by notification .. ..	3	2	5	-	-	-	5
No. removed from register during 1958:-							
(a) Died .. .. .	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
(b) Removed from district .. ..	2	5	7	-	-	-	7
(c) Recovered .. .. .	4	1	5	4	-	4	9
No. remaining on Register 31.12.58	66	55	121	13	11	24	145

# REPORT

of the

## SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the year ending 31st December 1958

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To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee  
of the Urban District of Sowerby Bridge

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on (a) the sanitary conditions in the area, (b) housing conditions including overcrowding, (c) the inspection and supervision of food, for the year ending 31st December 1958, and for the cleansing services for the year ending 31st March 1959.

In many of the Annual Reports reference has been made to the very unsatisfactory standard of housing within the Urban District. A considerable number of housing reports have been presented, stressing the very unsatisfactory conditions which appertain, and the lack of amenities in so many of our houses. The year was notable insofar that after eighteen years the Department again started Slum Clearance procedure.

In view of the fact that only a small number of houses were available for the displaced tenants, it was considered advisable to select a number of small areas rather than to concentrate on a large re-development area. 10 fringe areas were scheduled for clearance, involving 43 dwellings, and whilst it may have been advisable to take all houses within the Sowerby Bridge area, as the re-housing was at the Sowerby site, it was considered advisable to include some very substandard property within the Luddendenfoot area.

By reason of the fact that there were certain objections to the scheduling of the property, it was necessary to hold a Public Inquiry, the result being that the areas were confirmed without modification.

The rate of 43 dwellings per year should be maintained and increased, if we are to make any impression on the very many substandard houses within the district. It is hoped that the main re-development area in Sowerby Bridge will be tackled in the near future. The longer these various areas are left the worse the property becomes, as many of the owners, knowing that these are scheduled in a phased programme, are not willing to put any money into such houses. It is essential, therefore, that efforts should be made to maintain a definite target in the clearance of these very substandard houses.

The Department have continued their inspections under the Food Hygiene Regulations, and it is pleasing to report that the standard of cleanliness and improvement in many of the food shops has been maintained. Towards the end of the year a halt was called in the inspection under these Regulations, due to the fact that certain classes of businesses were housed in Council owned property, and it was found impossible to carry out the necessary improvements without re-construction. Alternative accommodation will be made available in the near future, after which a fresh start will be made on the remaining food shops within the Urban District.

Very little work has been done on the Clean Air Act so far, but during the year additional provisions became operative. These provisions, for the most part, dealt with the discharge of dust and grit from furnaces, and new powers for dealing with the smoke nuisance. The Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations, 1958, became operative. These Regulations set out definite shades of smoke under the Ringelmann Chart, and definite periods for the emission of either black or dark smoke. These Regulations may not have been all that one desired, but at least they were a step in the right direction. It is hoped to deal with this very important subject of Smoke Control more fully in the coming year.

In order that both industry, in the reduction of industrial smoke, and the citizen in the reduction of domestic smoke, can proceed together, the West Riding Clean Air Advisory Council organised exhibitions to tour throughout the West Riding, in order that all concerned in smoke production could receive first hand information on the latest methods of reducing smoke and so cleaning up and improving our atmosphere. The exhibition commenced in Wakefield in the autumn, and continued until Easter 1959 in other areas.

Only by constantly educating the people on the necessity for improving the atmosphere, and by showing them ways of carrying this out, shall we achieve any improvement. A considerable amount of apathy exists in this field, and only by constantly placing the facts before the people shall we attain the desired results.

Efforts were made during the year to set up a Smoke Recording Station, and although the Council approved this in principle, it was not until the end of the year that the site was selected and the equipment obtained. It is hoped that this station will supply interesting information, showing the pollution of the atmosphere in this district not only by smoke but also by other impurities.

The Cleansing Department has continued to work in a very satisfactory and efficient manner, and the regular weekly collection throughout the district has continued during the year. There have been no real difficulties worthy of note, apart from the disposal of certain types of salvage in that department. There has been no difficulty with the disposal of waste paper, but unfortunately the Iron and Steel Scrap Recovery Board, who had encouraged Local Authorities to segregate light iron from the refuse, could no longer find a suitable market, and accordingly towards the end of the year the Council were considering discontinuing the segregation of this material. The salvage returns showed a slight increase generally.

It was possible once again to make arrangements for the Public Health Committee to visit a large Authority, Liverpool being the host on this occasion, and to see at first hand the re-development which they had in hand, together with the many different schemes in operation in that city. Apart from the provision of flats and the slum clearance schemes which had been

undertaken on a vast scale, a very encouraging feature was to see at first hand the operation of a Smoke Control Area.

Visits of this nature are not only interesting and instructive, but show what can be achieved by enthusiasm, careful planning and progressive policy.

The visit to Liverpool was followed by a visit to one of the large food manufacturing factories, where food hygiene was a very important feature. It is on visits like these that the Committee, after talking about the various aspects of public health, whether it be slum clearance, smoke control or food hygiene, see the benefits that can be obtained.

In conclusion, I must thank the Chairman, Councillor G.A. Benbow, J.P., and the members of the Committee, for their continued help and interest, and also express my thanks to Dr. Gordon for his help.

My thanks are also due to the staff of the Department, Mr. J. Goulden the Additional Inspector, also to the Clerical Staff, together with the Foreman and the Employees of the Cleansing Department, who have carried out the objectionable work of cleansing and disposal of refuse in such an efficient manner.

In addition I should like to thank all the Officials of the Council, who have so kindly co-operated in supplying general information for this report.

I remain, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

W.E. FOSTER, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.P.H.I.A.

Senior Public Health Inspector.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER SUPPLIES

#### Public Supply

The Halifax Corporation water supply, which is distributed throughout the majority of the district, continues to give satisfaction.

Samples for both chemical and bacteriological examination have been obtained, and have again proved highly satisfactory. 3 samples of water were obtained for bacteriological examination, and 1 for chemical examination.

Norland and parts of Triangle and Mill Bank are served by the Norland and Ripponden Public Supplies. The water has again proved to be satisfactory. The samples taken were as follows:- 5 for bacteriological examination, 1 for chemical and 4 for Plumbo Solvency. All the results were satisfactory.

Extension of the water main took place at Blackwood Hall, Luddenden Foot in order to supply the Church of England School, which has been served by an unsatisfactory water supply for some considerable time. The extension of this main will allow properties in the immediate vicinity to be connected comparatively easily. The water main has also been extended to Sparkhouse Lane, Norland, to cover a farm and 8 cottages. It is hoped that further extension will take place in the near future to cover the whole of the property on Sparkhouse Lane, which is at present supplied from shallow wells.

There are still certain of the more rural parts of the area where a public water supply is necessary.

#### Private Supplies

The private water supplies which still serve a considerable part of the district continue to take up a considerable part of the Inspectors' time. The many private supplies continue to be sampled from time to time in order to ascertain where the extension of the main is really necessary.

This work has continued over a considerable period, and during this time where possible the private supplies have been improved, or alternatively the Town's main has been extended, in some instances at considerable cost to the Council. This has enabled the necessary housing improvements to take place, together with the improvement of the sanitary conditions, and the general fall in the number of pail closets in the area is due mainly to the provision of an adequate water supply.

It is extremely difficult to convince many people who have had access to a suspicious supply for a considerable period that it is in their interests to discontinue the private supply and provide an alternative in the way of the public supply, and in instances where insufficiencies have been

observed the public soon seem to forget the very arduous task in carrying water, or having only the provision of a cold water tap over a sink, due in many instances to the fact that the supply is insufficient and any additional useage would mean an insufficiency.

It is generally agreed that the provision of a wholesome and adequate water supply is very necessary. It is also one of the Department's responsibilities to see that proper water supplies are available wherever there are houses and schools, and to prevent as far as possible any waterborne infection. Fortunately, in this area, even with many of the polluted supplies there has not been a great evidence of waterborne infection, but with many supplies running in open courses, with storage tanks having ill-fitting covers or in some instances no covers at all, where open cattle troughs invariably form part of the supply and in some instances where there is danger of pollution from other sources, there is always the possibility of infection. Accordingly, the Department must always be alive to this position, and routine sampling must be carried out. Whilst there is no infection everybody appears to be quite content, but immediately there is any scare of infection it is the Public Health Department that should have taken the necessary action.

During the year 78 samples of water from the private supplies have been obtained, and of these 29 were satisfactory, and 49 unsatisfactory. 6 samples of water were taken for chemical analysis and all were unsatisfactory. Details of the sampling which has taken place during the year are set out below.

District	Bacteriological Examination		
	Sat.	U/Sat.	Total
Luddenden Foot .. .. .	15	16	31
Norland .. .. .	3	4	7
Midgley .. .. .	2	6	8
Triangle and Mill Bank .. .. .	2	7	9
Sowerby .. .. .	7	16	23
Norland Public Supply .. .. .	5	-	5
Halifax Corporation Supply .. .. .	3	-	3
Totals ..	37	49	86

#### Drainage and Sewerage

Approximately 90% of the houses within the district have satisfactory drainage, being connected to the Council's sewers. The majority of the remaining drainage arrangements are unsatisfactory, although a few private schemes provide adequate drainage facilities.

During the year the sewers have been extended at Shield Hall, Sowerby, and Dean House, Midgley.

At the year end, although there were no sewers under construction, the Council were awaiting approval to start work on the Norland sewer. This would abolish the many unsatisfactory cesspools in this area, and also provide adequate disposal arrangements for the Norland School. At the year end the Pinfold Lane sewer at Sowerby, and the Sparkhouse sewer were being prepared, and the main drainage scheme for the district was being examined.

The general maintenance on the sewers has continued, and although certain parts of the district still require an adequate sewer, the amount of work undertaken in this direction is reducing these considerably.

A considerable amount of work has been completed by the Department on the re-construction and the testing of many small drainage systems. During the year 350 inspections and visits were made in relation to this work, and the water test undertaken in all cases. In addition to the work of inspection and re-construction of drainage, 41 choked drains were attended to under the provisions of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951. No charge was made for this work.

#### Sewage Disposal

The Luddenden Foot Joint Sewerage Board are completely re-constructing and modernising the sewage works to take trade effluent.

The sewage disposal works at Milner Royd continue to give satisfaction, and the matter of trade effluent is still being carefully considered.

#### Sanitary Accommodation

The conversion of the pails and privies has again continued during the year. The entire work has been carried out by negotiation rather than by formal notice, and in each instance a contribution of £10 has been made.

The number of pails has been reduced by 40, making a total of 430, and the number of privies reduced by 2, leaving a total of 4, and it is anticipated that in the coming year all the privies will be converted to the water carriage system. There are no ash pits within the area.

It is hoped that with the improvement of water supplies and the extension of sewers there will be further progress, and the more primitive type of sanitary accommodation will slowly disappear.

At the end of the year approximately 90% of the houses were provided with W.C.s

One disturbing aspect of sanitary accommodation within this district is the joint accommodation where two or even three families have the use of one W.C. This is most unsatisfactory

and most unhygienic, and in many cases leads to trouble in the cleaning and general disinfecting of the basin and compartment. With the number of substandard houses, especially the back-to-back type, with joint accommodation, I regret to say that it will be some considerable time before each family in this district will be provided with a separate W.C.

The types of accommodation within the district are set down as follows:-

Number of Privies .. .. .	4
Number of Pail Closets .. .. .	430
Number of Pedestal W.C.s, including factories and shops .. .. .	4,628
Number of Trough Closets .. .. .	21
Number of Waste Water Closets .. .. .	16
	<hr/>
	5,099
	<hr/>

The following table outlines the out-districts where the more primitive types of sanitary accommodation are now placed:-

District	Pails	Privies
Triangle and Mill Bank .. .. .	34	-
Sowerby Bridge .. .. .	17	-
Norland .. .. .	111	2
Sowerby and Blackwood .. .. .	106	2
Luddenden Foot .. .. .	95	-
Midgley .. .. .	67	-
Totals ..	430	4

## PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES

### Refuse Collection

The public cleansing, including collection and disposal of house refuse, the cleansing of pails and privies and the collection of trade and market refuse, is the direct concern of the Department. The collection and disposal of salvage materials is also undertaken.

The bins of the Urban area are for the most part emptied on a weekly basis. Only the properties in the out-districts, which total about 10%, continue on a fortnightly collection.

The recruiting of labour has not been difficult. This, in all probability, was due to the fact that there have been very few resignations in the service, which means that the settled teams go about their work more efficiently, with much less difficulty in keeping the rounds up to date. The two larger rounds empty some 2,500 bins each per week, which averages out at approximately 168 bins per man per day. This, together with the long walks in many instances, and the many steps which have to be encountered due to the contours of this district, means that the work is of a very arduous nature and due, in some instances, to the thoughtlessness of certain people can be very objectionable.

A 5-day week is still being worked, with the exception of a short period immediately before and after Christmas, but due to the fact that the district has a Friday market it is essential that Saturday morning work is necessary to remove the accumulation of market refuse.

The vegetable and similar refuse is collected three times per week, and other trade refuse on a Saturday morning, together with the market refuse. It is surprising that with the very nature of the work there has been so little sickness during the past year, and this again has contributed to the efficiency of the service, as the Department is not in that fortunate position that should one of the team be indisposed there is immediately another man available.

The Department works on the absolute minimum number of staff, and there are no replacement labourers readily available, which means that in times of sickness either overtime must be worked, or alternatively the rounds go behind.

In dealing with the sanitary accommodation I referred to the very unsatisfactory state of affairs with joint sanitary accommodation, and exactly the same conditions appertain with joint refuse accommodation. I have mentioned this on many occasions, and in order to effect some improvement it has been necessary to carry out a twice weekly collection, but again, due to the negligence of a few people the communal ashbin arrangement is a very poor one.

The details of the work carried out by the various vehicles in the Department are set out in the following table:-

Vehicle	Ashbins	Privies	Pails	Loads	Tons	Cwts.
Bedford No. 7 .. ..	16,386	17	-	714	594	-
Bedford No. 8 .. ..	6,946	-	27,063	546	543	10
S. & D. No. 9 .. ..	109,811	-	-	529	1,587	-
S. & D. No. 10 .. ..	112,547	-	-	581	1,731	-
Karrier No. 11 .. ..	34,548	-	-	1,052	986	-
Totals ..	280,238	17	27,063	3,422	5,441	10

### Transport

The Department at present operates the following transport:-

No.	Make	Year of Purchase	Capacity	Service
7	Bedford	1947	7 cu.yds.	Ashbins
8	Bedford	1949	7 cu.yds.	Pails and Pits
9	S. & D. Rear F. & A. Loader	1951	18 cu.yds.	Ashbins
10	S. & D. Rear F. & A. Loader	1954	18 cu.yds.	Ashbins
11	Karrier Bantam	1956	7 cu.yds.	Ashbins, Salvage, Trade Refuse.
	Fordson Tractor	1956	Shovel and Blade	Refuse Disposal

The cost of the maintenance of the various vehicles has not been heavy, especially when one takes into consideration the nature of the work, which is all stop and start, and the amount of gear work which is entailed. One of the problems which has been rather acute during the year is the kerbing of tyres, and it is serious when a comparatively good tyre is rendered completely useless due to the walls of the tyre being ruined. Efforts are being made to cut this down to a minimum.

With the teams working 44 hours on the collection of refuse, there is no time whatsoever available in the normal working week for the cleaning and greasing of the vehicles, and accordingly this work is carried out during week-ends, at overtime rates.

During the past year we have been in the fortunate position that a spare vehicle has been available, as previously if a vehicle was taken off the road for repairs then the work automatically went behind as there was no replacement vehicle.

From the records it does not appear that there has been any major breakdown during the year, but this of course can happen at any time, and should we experience many of these the Department's estimate for vehicle maintenance will be badly overspent. Every effort is made to keep the cost of repairs down to a minimum due to the regular greasing and check of the vehicles concerned.

### Accidents

During the year the vehicles have been involved in 11 accidents. These are set out as follows:-

Bedford 7	..	..	..	..	2
S. & D. 9	..	..	..	..	2
S. & D. 10	..	..	..	..	2
Karrier 11	..	..	..	..	3
Bedford Van	..	..	..	..	2

In fairness to the drivers concerned, I must say that generally speaking they are very capable and very concerned when an accident is reported, but with the many uneven and unmade roads in the out-districts they are extremely fortunate if they can go a whole year without having to report an accident. I am quite certain that every precaution is taken by the drivers concerned.

### Refuse Accommodation throughout the Area

Due to the improvement of water supplies and sewers, the number of pails and privies is reduced, but the number of ashbins increased. The following table sets out the refuse accommodation throughout the area.

Year	Pail Closets	Privies	Ash Bins
1950	655	51	6,197
1951	625	45	6,208
1952	629	30	6,229
1953	529	23	6,314
1954	520	16	6,384
1955	511	13	6,396
1956	497	12	6,410
1957	470	6	6,435
1958	430	4	6,439

As I have mentioned, the pails are constantly being reduced, but it must not be assumed that when we arrive at the fortunate position that there are no pails in the district, the vehicles have not to visit these premises. The position is that there is still a bin which

requires emptying, and accordingly a visit will still be necessary. It is pleasing to note the continued reduction in the pails of the district.

#### Municipal Ashbin Scheme

The Municipal Ashbin Scheme has now been working for nine years and still continues to work satisfactorily from the Department's point of view. The scheme enables all defective bins to be replaced with a standard type of bin to which the men get accustomed, and it leads to the improvement and the general efficiency of the rounds.

I feel that this scheme has contributed in no small way to the number of bins which are emptied per man per day, as this generally speaking is greater than the output in other parts of the West Riding.

The charge of 5s. 0d. per bin continues, and at long last the scheme now pays for itself in the fact that the cost of bins is approximately the same as the amount recovered for the provision of the same. More than half the district is now covered by this scheme.

#### Trade Refuse

The trade refuse throughout the district continues to be removed regularly, and there have been no alterations in the conditions of collection or the charges, which remain at the free collection of the first bin and a charge of 1s. 0d. for each additional bin or part thereof. Many of the food shops have the trade refuse collected three times weekly, but the majority is collected on a Saturday morning, together with the market refuse. The amount of trade refuse removed during the year amounted to approximately 167 tons, bringing in a return of £344.

#### Refuse Disposal

All the house refuse is disposed of at Milner Royd tip, on a controlled principle. The amount of house refuse is approximately 100 tons per week, exclusive of contractor's and other refuse, which varies from week to week.

The site has been difficult to work, but with mechanical equipment available the work has been completed efficiently and very satisfactorily. There has been no infestation whatsoever, neither have there been any tip fires.

There has been a shortage of suitable covering material, but the majority of covering material is now being brought from an adjoining refuse site where the refuse has completely decomposed and is being used to great advantage.

The cost for controlling the refuse has been greatly reduced and it is now possible to control the refuse and carry out additional work on the tip with the use of tractor and driver only. In addition the tractor has been loaned to other Departments of the Council, where it has done a variety of work very efficiently. This has resulted in a tremendous saving all

round, and has also reduced the overall costs of refuse disposal.

### Salvage

The amount of waste paper continues to be comparatively high, and exceeds more than 1 ton per 1,000 of the population per month.

The waste paper is sorted into four separate grades, and during the year approximately 270 tons have been baled, bringing in a total of £2,170. The restriction on certain types of waste paper was removed during the year, but the quota still remained on newsprint. The incentive bonus, which is paid twice per year at Christmas and the Wakes Break, continues to be paid and remains at approximately 3d. per hour. I feel that this has helped considerably in solving the labour problem which existed a few years ago.

The amount of ferrous metals has reduced considerably. The Joint Scrap Recovery Board have made every effort to encourage Local Authorities to segregate the maximum quantity of destructor scrap, and a subsidy was paid on this type of material. Unfortunately, due to circumstances entirely beyond the control of the Board, the subsidies were dropped and there was extreme difficulty in finding suitable markets. Accordingly, the Council discontinued the segregation of tins, but were fortunate to dispose of the quantities on hand.

The total revenue exceeded £2,244, being higher than any return since 1951. This, I feel, has been possible mainly due to the stable price of waste paper.

Details of the sale of salvaged materials are set out in the following tables:-

Materials Salvaged	T	C	Q	£	s	d
Waste Paper .. .. .	184	15	-	1,390	2	1
Fibreboard .. .. .	44	7	3	421	13	10
Newspapers .. .. .	38	8	3	359	1	9
Ferrous Metals .. .. .	6	2	-	27	-	-
Non-Ferrous Metals .. .. .		6	1	20	17	9
Rags .. .. .		18	2	12	14	6
Carpets .. .. .	1	15	2	8	18	-
String .. .. .	1	2	-	4	8	-
Totals ..	277	15	3	2,244	15	11

SALVAGE SALES 1939 to 1958

Year	Total Tonrages for all Materials T. C. Q.	Waste Paper T. C. Q.	Ferrous Metals and Loose Tins T. C. Q.	Non- Ferrous Metals T. C. Q.	Textiles and Rubber T. C. Q.	Cullet T. C. Q.	Kitchen Waste and Bones T. C. Q.	£ s d
1939 to 1950	3,778. 8. 0.	1,903. 8. 0.	433. 6. 3.	6. 9. 3.	23. 5. 2.	165. 13. 2.	1,246. 4. 2.	13,822. 1. 6.
1951	238. 0. 1.	162. 11. 3.	14. 14. 0.	5. 1.	5. 1.	- - -	60. 4. 0.	2,742. 8. 9.
1952	247. 2. 2.	150. 16. 3.	28. 4. 1.	5. 2.	1. 5. 0.	- - -	66. 11. 0.	1,540. 15. 7.
1953	280. 13. 2.	186. 14. 2.	26. 9. 0.	2. 1.	1. 1. 3.	- - -	66. 6. 0.	1,521. 17. 0.
1954	183. 19. 3.	172. 15. 1.	10. 2. 3.	1. 2.	6. 1.	- - -	14. 0.	1,303. 0. 10.
1955	235. 15. 3.	215. 15. 0.	19. 3. 1.	1. 1.	16. 1.	- - -	- - -	1,905. 19. 0.
1956	272. 14. 2.	243. 16. 1.	25. 7. 1.	6. 1.	3. 4. 3.	- - -	- - -	2,069. 0. 9.
1957	278. 14. 1.	251. 9. 3.	23. 2. 2.	5. 0.	3. 17. 0.	- - -	- - -	2,092. -6. 7.
1958	277. 15. 3.	267. 11. 2.	6. 2. 0.	6. 1.	3. 16. 0.	- - -	- - -	2,244. 15. 11.
	5,793. 4. 1.	3,554. 18. 3.	586. 11. 3.	8. 3. 0.	37. 17. 3.	165. 13. 2.	1,439. 19. 2.	29,241. 5. 11.

## Infectious Disease and Disinfection

Enquiries and visits in connection with the spread of infectious disease have been carried out during the year. 30 visits were made in this connection, the majority being in connection with mild cases of Scarlet Fever. There were a few cases of Dysentery, which were fully investigated, and there were 2 visits in connection with notifications of Poliomyelitis.

Details of the visits and investigations are set out as follows:-

Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Visits re Sonne Dysentery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Visits re Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Visits re Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Visits re Disinfection	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10

## Clean Air Act, 1956

During the year 22 smoke observations were made, of which 10 showed excessive emissions of smoke. In all these cases cautions were issued, but no formal action was taken.

It appears to be quite a slow process, but the majority of the firms are facing up to the problems of smoke control, and it is pleasing to note that attempts are being made and consultants being called in to advise in many instances. It is also noted that there is an ever increasing number of industrialists resorting to electrification of their factories, to the exclusion of the old steam engine, and I feel it is inevitable that some alteration will follow in the space heating of the firms. The problem of smoke control may then be overcome.

I feel it is absolutely essential that additional information must be available, not only to the industrialists but also to the domestic users, on the efficient use of coal and smokeless fuels. A successful campaign has recently been held in the Midlands, and during the early part of next year it is hoped to combine with the West Riding Clean Air Advisory Council in the running of a campaign which is to tour the whole of the West Riding. I feel that it is essential that as much information as possible should be given to the public, in order that they may be ready for the provision of the approved appliance and smokeless fuel as and when Smoke Control Areas are contemplated.

In order to obtain information regarding the pollution of the atmosphere, it was hoped to set up a smoke recording station within the district. A site has been settled, but at the year end the equipment was awaited. It is hoped that early in 1959 recording will commence.

The Council have in force a Byelaw under the Clean Air Act in relation to the fixing of approved appliances in all new dwellinghouses.

## Factories

During the year 9 visits were made to the various factories in the district, as a result of which 3 contraventions of Section 7 were observed. All these defects were remedied.

Details of the factories now on the register are set out as follows:-

### Inspections

Factories	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Written Notices
In which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 enforced by Local Authority .. .. .	20	2	-
Where Section 7 is enforced .. .. .	124	7	3
Totals ..	144	9	3

### Defects Found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Inadequate Ventilation .. .. .	1	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors ..	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:			
(a) Insufficient .. .. .	3	2	2
(b) Unsuitable or defective .. ..	2	3	-
(c) Not separate for sexes .. ..	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) .. .. .	-	-	-
Totals ..	6	5	2

## Public Swimming Bath

It is pleasing to report that the chlorination plant has been completely renewed, and it is anticipated that during the coming year two new air scoured vertical filters will be provided to replace those now in use. When this work is completed it is anticipated that the

turnover will be every  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours.

There has been a great improvement in the condition of the swimming bath water, as will be seen by the fact that 8 samples of water were taken for both bacteriological and chemical examination, and all were found to be satisfactory.

#### Nuisances (Part 3, Public Health Act, 1936, except Smoke Nuisances)

The total number of inspections made for nuisances only, excluding housing inspections, was 74. At the end of 1957, 7 notices were outstanding. During 1958, 49 informal notices were issued, of which 47 were abated, thus leaving 9 outstanding at the end of 1958. It was not found necessary to issue any statutory notices during the year.

#### Offensive Trades

There have been no additions to the register of offensive trades, and no applications have been made. During the year the premises used for tripe dressing were closed. The only offensive trades now on the register are fish friers, and these total 28.

#### Sanitary Inspection of the Area

	Visits
Bakehouses .. .. .	11
Camping Sites .. .. .	5
Clean Air Act .. .. .	8
Conversions - Visits .. .. .	341
Drainage, etc. .. .. .	391
Factories .. .. .	9
Flooding, etc. .. .. .	2
Fried Fish Shops .. .. .	29
Hairdressers .. .. .	7
Houses Let in Lodgings .. .. .	1
Interviews .. .. .	187
Ministry of National Insurance - Burials .. .. .	1
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits .. .. .	243
Offensive Trades .. .. .	1
Outworkers .. .. .	1
Petrol Pump Inspections .. .. .	49
Public Cleansing - Administration .. .. .	81
Public Cleansing - Refuse Collection .. .. .	189
Public Cleansing - Refuse Disposal .. .. .	116
Public Cleansing - Salvage .. .. .	57
Public Conveniences .. .. .	6
Sanitary Accommodation - Defects .. .. .	47

## Visits

Schools .. .. .	4
Shops .. .. .	19
Smoke Observations .. .. .	22
Stables, Piggeries and Poultry .. .. .	2
Sunday Trading .. .. .	4
Tents, Vans and Sheds .. .. .	4
Theatres and Places of Entertainment .. .. .	4
Water Courses - Survey .. .. .	15
Water Supplies .. .. .	183
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## HOUSING

Inspection of the housing of the district continues, together with investigation into housing complaints under both the Public Health and Housing Acts.

In view of the fact that only a small number of houses were available for re-housing purposes, it was not considered advisable to undertake further surveys and preparation for the Compulsory Purchase Order of the properties at West End. The area is a large one and contains some 209 houses. Accordingly, other small groups of similar properties in the first phase were dealt with. 9 Clearance Orders in all were made, and these were as follows:-

Norland, Lower Dodge Royd (No. 1) Clearance Order, 1958 .. .. .	5 houses
Norland, Hollin Well (No. 2) Clearance Order, 1958 .. .. .	8 houses and 2 shops
Sowerby, Carr Fold (No. 3) Clearance Order, 1958 .. .. .	5 houses
Luddenden Foot, Narrow Nick (No. 4) Clearance Order, 1958 .. .. .	5 houses
Luddenden Foot, Milner Gate (No. 5) Clearance Order, 1958 .. .. .	6 houses
Luddenden Foot, Bottoms Cottages (No. 6) Clearance Order, 1958 .. .. .	2 houses
Luddenden Foot, Mill Gates (No. 7) Clearance Order, 1958 .. .. .	5 houses
Sowerby, Stocks Lane (No. 8) Clearance Order, 1958 .. .. .	6 houses and 2 shops
Sowerby, Higham (No. 11) Clearance Order, 1958 .. .. .	2 houses

As a result of objections being made against certain areas, a Housing Inquiry was held in relation to:-

Norland, Hollin Well (No. 2) Clearance Order, 1958  
 Luddenden Foot, Narrow Nick (No. 4) Clearance Order, 1958  
 Luddenden Foot, Bottoms Cottages (No. 6) Clearance Order, 1958  
 Luddenden Foot, Mill Gates (No. 7) Clearance Order, 1958

the result of which was that the areas were confirmed in their entirety, and without modification.

One of the difficulties which is confronting the Housing Department in re-housing is the number of small houses required in relation to the numbers of two and three-bedroomed houses which have been constructed for re-housing purposes. It is anticipated, however, that this problem will be solved in the near future.

The overcrowding of the district has again been reviewed, and at the year end the number of cases of overcrowding had been reduced to 15. Many of the overcrowded families had found suitable alternative accommodation themselves, and certain families had been de-crowded. In addition the Council had re-housed 12 families from overcrowded houses.

Regarding verminous premises, the decrease in the complaints of this nature continues, and during the past year there has not been any complaint of bed bug infestation. This, I think, is attributable to the insecticides which are now available, and the constant vigilance of families in these substandard dwellings.

Work has continued under the Rent Act, and during the year 21 Certificates of Disrepair were granted, and the number of undertakings given by owners to execute the necessary repairs totalled 31. There were no Certificates of Disrepair cancelled.

The housing statistics for 1958 are set out in the following table:-

1.	Approximate number of dwellinghouses in the district	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,735
2.	Number of houses included in above										
	(a) Back-to-back	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,276
	(b) Single back	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	171
3.	Houses in Clearance Areas and Unfit Houses elsewhere.										
	(1) Number of houses included in Representations made during the year										
	(a) in Clearance Areas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
	(b) individual unfit houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

(2) Clearance Areas

(a) Houses demolished	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
(b) Number of Persons displaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
(c) Number of Families displaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

(3) Unfit Houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied

After informal action by local authority

By Owner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	148
By Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

After formal notice under Public Health Acts

By Owner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
By Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13

After formal notice under Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957

By Owner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
By Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957

By Owner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
By Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

4. Number of families re-housed during the year into Council Houses

(a) Clearance Areas, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
(b) Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12

5. Rent Act, 1957

(a) Number of certificates of disrepair granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
(b) Number of undertakings to execute repairs given by owners to the local authority	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
(c) Number of certificates of disrepair cancelled	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

6. New Dwellings

Number of new dwellings completed during the year

By the Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
By Private Enterprise	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

7. Grants for conversion or improvement of housing accommodation

(a) Conversions

(1) Applications received (number of dwellings)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
(2) Applications approved (number of dwellings)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
(3) Number of dwellings completed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

(b) Improvements

(1) Applications received (number of dwellings)	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
(2) Applications approved (number of dwellings)	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
(3) Number of dwellings completed	..	..	..	..	..	..	18

8. Details of advances for the purpose of acquiring or constructing houses

The Council operate the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, and during the year 10 advancements have been made - 8 for the purchase of houses and 2 for improvement.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Distribution

During the year the following licences were issued under the various Milk and Dairies Regulations:-

Supplementary Licences to Retail Pasteurised Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Supplementary Licences to Retail Tuberculin Tested Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Supplementary Licences to Retail Sterilised Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Dealer's Licence to use the designation Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Dealer's Licence to use the designation Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Dealer's Licence to use the designation T.T./Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Dealer's Licence to use the designation Sterilised	..	..	..	..	..	..	26

The establishment previously used for the pasteurisation of milk has now closed down, and has been re-opened as a cheese factory.

The trouble which was experienced during 1957 with the excessive dumping of milk on the highway, and also in very unsatisfactory places immediately off the highway, has now for the most part ceased. Arrangements are now made for either the collection of the milk at the dairy itself, or alternatively for the milk to be deposited at suitable collecting places. These collecting places are approved, they are off the highway and are reasonably satisfactory. The trouble which is now emerging is one where the empty crates are being deposited, which is a matter we hope will receive consideration in due course.

Milk Sampling

During the year 22 samples of milk were obtained, 8 of the samples being Tuberculin Tested milk, and the remainder was heat treated, 2 of these samples being Sterilised Milk. All the samples were completely satisfactory.

## Food Inspection

The inspection of all food shops throughout the district has been carried out, details of which are set out in the following table:-

Butchers' shops .. .. .	48
Butchers' stalls .. .. .	52
Canteens .. .. .	3
Dairies and Milk Distributors .. .. .	6
Fishmongers and Poulterers .. .. .	2
Food Hygiene Regulations .. .. .	67
Food Preparing Establishments .. .. .	12
Greengrocers and Fruiterers .. .. .	3
Grocers .. .. .	9
Ice Cream Premises .. .. .	17
Market Stalls .. .. .	147
Meat Inspection .. .. .	173
Mobile Traders .. .. .	5
Public Houses .. .. .	2
Restaurants .. .. .	2
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	548

The inspection of food shops has been completed and further improvements have been carried out under the Food Hygiene Regulations. The improvement of the Butchers' Shops and the Bake-houses has been maintained, and these are extremely satisfactory. As additional applications come forward for Ice Cream registrations, these shops are also being brought up to date. 22 inspections of the Fried Fish Shops have been completed in order to bring these up to a suitable standard. It was not found necessary to serve formal notice in any instance, and the work without exception has been carried out in an informal manner. Work under the Food Hygiene Regulations will continue until all the shops have been adequately covered.

As a result of the inspection of the food shops, the following food has been surrendered as unfit for human consumption:-

	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Meat .. .. .	5	-	5	1
Vegetables .. .. .	1	1	10	2
Fruit .. .. .		1	10	6
Fish .. .. .			1	14
-Cheese .. .. .			17	-
Porage Oats .. .. .			13	-
Flour .. .. .			3	-
Butter .. .. .			3	-
Jam .. .. .			1	-
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	7	-	8	7

3 tins Soup, 1 tin Milk; 8 slices Processed Cheese; 11 pkts. Shredded Wheat; 7 Swiss Rolls.

### Meat Inspection

Meat inspection has continued throughout the year at the two private slaughterhouses within the district. All animals slaughtered have been examined, but these only cater for a small part of the requirements of the area. The majority of the meat consumed within the Urban District is slaughtered at the Halifax Abattoir.

Details of the meat inspection are set out in the following table:-

	Cows	Cattle other than Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number slaughtered .. .. .	2	290	3	539	171
Number inspected .. .. .	2	290	3	539	171
All diseases except Tuberculosis:-					
Whole carcasses condemned .. .. .	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .	-	6	-	8	5
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ..	-	2.06%	-	1.4%	2.9%
Tuberculosis only:-					
Whole carcasses condemned .. .. .	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .	-	12	-	-	2
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis .. .. .	-	4.13%	-	-	1.15%
Number of visits for meat inspection purposes .. .. .	..	..	..	..	161
Weight of meat condemned at slaughterhouses .. .. .	..	..	..	..	475 lbs.

### Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

Licences have been issued to 12 slaughtermen within the Urban District, under the above Act.

### Ice Cream

There are no manufacturers of Ice Cream within this area, all the shops retailing wrapped ice cream. There is an ever increasing number of mobile vans touring the district, but these

are satisfactory and are registered under the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, in this respect.

During the year 17 visits have been made to the retailers in the district, and 12 samples of Ice Cream were taken, all of which proved to be satisfactory.

There are 58 establishments retailing Ice Cream within the Urban District.

#### Food Hawkers

At the present time there are 28 food hawkers on the register, which is kept under the provisions of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951. Details of the registrations are as follows:-

11 dealing in Bread and Confectionery  
8 dealing in Greengrocery, including Fish  
7 dealing in Ice Cream  
2 dealing in General Foodstuffs

#### GENERAL ITEMS

#### Petroleum Acts and Orders

A full inspection of all the petrol stations and all the petroleum installations was made prior to the issuing of any licences. A considerable number of contraventions were observed, mainly in relation to ventilating pipes, the lack of fire prevention facilities and necessary notices under the Act. 49 inspections were made by the Department, and further detailed inspection was carried out by the Fire Service.

At the commencement of the year the following licences were issued:-

Storage of Petroleum	.. .. .	38
Storage of Cellulose Paint and Petroleum Mixtures	.. .. .	4
Storage of Carbide of Calcium	.. .. .	2

#### Rodent Control

The work of rodent control is still carried out by a part-time operative, and a considerable amount of time is devoted to this work by the Inspectors.

During the year 142 dwellinghouses, 75 business premises and 27 Local Authority properties have been inspected and treated. All these infestations were of a minor nature. The number of visits made to the premises in question were 716. This does not include any work in connection with sewer baiting.

The treatment of sewers has again been undertaken, and details are set out in the following table:-

Section	No. of Man-holes	No. not baited	No. baited	Pre-bait takes			
				C	P	Total Takes	N.T.
Millbank/Triangle .. .. .	69	45	24	-	-	-	24
Sowerby/Triangle ... .. .	65	55	10	-	-	-	10
Luddenden Foot District .. .. .	77	68	9	-	-	-	9
Midgley .. .. .	67	58	9	-	-	-	9
Beechwood .. .. .	92	86	6	-	-	-	6
Sowerby/Luddenden Foot .. .. .	99	93	6	-	-	-	6
Sowerby Bridge, Sec. 1 .. .. .	92	86	6	-	2	2	4
Sowerby Bridge, Sec. 2 .. .. .	124	104	20	-	1	1	19
Sowerby Bridge, Sec. 3 .. .. .	121	103	18	2	-	2	16

C - Complete Take

P - Partial Take

N.T. - No Take

The dwellinghouses in the district continue to be treated free of charge, whilst the business premises and factories are charged at a rate depending upon the length of time devoted to the work, and the amount of material used. The service is appreciated by the householders, and also the factory managers where complete disinfestation has resulted.

Details of the treatments during the year are set out below:-

Refuse Disposal Site .. .. .	3
Salvage Depot .. .. .	6
Recreation Grounds .. .. .	2
Private Dwellings .. .. .	23
Business Premises .. .. .	12
Farms .. .. .	-







